Non-payment of bills for construction jobs by NTC

2638. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all civil construction job pertaining to modernisation of the mills under the National Textile Corporation (WBABO) Limited, Calcutta have come to a standstill due to lack of funds;

(b) whether the bills of the parties even after settlement have been awaiting payments from the said NTC units;

(c) whether the parties have claimed further losses on account of delayed payment and on account of interest charged by different nationalised banks;

(d) if so, what are the facts thereof; and

(e) what further action is being proposed to be taken to expedite completion of jobs and payment of bills pertaining to civil construction immediately?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Creation of a Central Fire Service Cadre

2639. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of discontent and a sense of insecurity in the Fire Service in the country for not having a Central Fire Service Cadre (I.F.S.) as there exists disparity in their salaries in different States and Union Territories; and

(b) if so, as to when Government contemplate to constitute the 'Indian Fire Service' Cadre like the IPS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES, AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) No such report has been received nor any such proposal is under consideration by the Government.

Tribals' dissatisfaction with Assam Accord

2640. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tribals of Assam have been articulating their dissatisfaction over the provisions of the Assam Accord for some time past by way of bandhs, 'rastaroko' agitations, etc.;

(b) whether it is also a fact that various tribal organisations in Assam have recently submitted memoranda to Government demanding autonomy under provisions of Article 244(A) of the Constitution; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAH): (a) Several tribal organisations in Assam have expressed some apprehension about a few provisions of the Assam Accord relating to eviction and constitutional safeguards etc. for the Assamese people.

(b) A number of organisations of hill tribals in Assam have represented for constituting the two hill districts into an Autonomous Hill State within Assam under Aricle 244(A) of the Constitution.

(c) The Government have not been in favour of further re-organisation of Assam. However, State Govt. have been requested to take urgent action to remove genuine grievances of the tribals and to look into developmental needs of the area with a view to create a sense of participation and belonging.

Rehabilitation of refugees in West Bengal

2641. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether West Bengal Government has recently requested the Central Government to provide adequate financial assistance for the economic rehabilitation of refugees from East Pakistan; and